

**REMARKS**

Applicants appreciate the examiner's review and consideration of the prior submission and subsequent allowance of claims 1 and 4.

The examiner objected to the drawings with regard to limitations recited in claim 2. Specifically, the examiner asserts certain features of the "reinforcement member" as recited in claim 2 must be shown or the features canceled from the claim. Further, the examiner rejected claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph as failing to comply with the written description requirement.

In response and without addressing the substance of the objection and rejection, Applicants have canceled claims 2 and 3 without prejudice while reserving the right to later pursue such claims, if desired. Additionally, Applicants have deleted Fig. 5 from the drawings and revised the labels on Figs. 6-8 to account for the deletion of Fig. 5 (*i.e.*, originally labeled Figs. 6-8 are revised to be labeled Figs. 5-7, respectively). Applicants likewise amended the specification by deleting material related to Fig. 5 and renumbering references to Figs. 6-8 in the specification to be to Figs. 5-7, respectively.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request review and reconsideration of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims, namely claims 1 and 4.

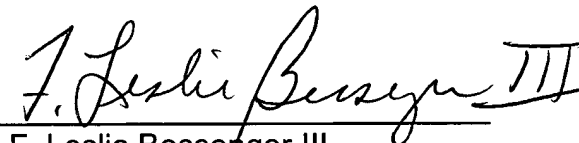
Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,  
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: October 14, 2004

By: \_\_\_\_\_

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "F. Leslie Bessinger III". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "F" and "B".

F. Leslie Bessinger III  
Reg. No. 39,108

**Attachments:      Replacement Drawings (FIGS. 5, 6 and 7)**

**AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:**

Please delete Fig. 5 of the drawings.

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figures 6, 7, and 8. In each of these revised figures, the label has been revised to account for renumbering of the figures after deletion of Fig. 5.

Attachments: Replacement Sheets